

From: Jim Verboon [<mailto:vboonfrms@sti.net>]

Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2011 9:37 AM

To: Macaulay, Terry@DeltaCouncil; Rogers, Pat@DeltaCouncil

Cc: russwaymire@sbcglobal.net; vboonfrms@sti.net

Subject: Fw: CODE BLUE: Massive Fish Kill In Port Of Stockton caused by sewage & pollution run-off Did you or anyone else you know see any news reports of this????

Pat and Terry,

Please pass along, Jim

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jim Verboon](#)

To: vboonfrms@sti.net

Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 10:19 AM

Subject: Fw: CODE BLUE: Massive Fish Kill In Port Of Stockton caused by sewage & pollution run-off Did you or anyone else you know see any news reports of this????

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jim Verboon](#)

To: [Aubrey Bettencourt](#) ; [erik Hansen](#)

Cc: [joel Olsson](#)

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 8:48 PM

Subject: Fw: CODE BLUE: Massive Fish Kill In Port Of Stockton caused by sewage & pollution run-off Did you or anyone else you know see any news reports of this????

----- Original Message -----

From: [Russ Waymire](#)

To: [Russ Waymire](#)

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 12:52 PM

Subject: CODE BLUE: Massive Fish Kill In Port Of Stockton caused by sewage & pollution run-off Did you or anyone else you know see any news reports of this????

I have pasted three significant news articles about sewage pollution in the Delta. I saved the best one until last it is an article detailing how many gallons of RAW SEWAGE that Bay Area Cities dumped into the Bay-Delta THIS YEAR 2010!!!!!!

DID ANYONE SEE ANY BIG HEADLINES ABOUT THESE MASSIVE SEWAGE SPILLS of MILLIONS of gallons of RAW SEWAGE into the Delta?? WHAT ABOUT THE MASSIVE FISH KILL that occurred in 2008 in the Delta at the City of Stockton??????

Our first public awareness here in the Central Valley about the May 2007 Stockton sewage spills killing fish in the delta occurred with the first news report coming a year later was finally reported in the Fresno Bee in June 2008. IT TOOK A YEAR FOR NEWS REPORTS TO REVEAL SEWAGE KILLED FISH THAT environmentalist and fish agencies blamed on farmers who use delta water to grow crops. Please read the articles exposing these BAY AREA hypocrites who dump their sewage in our water and blame us for killing the delta ecosystem...

1st NEWS ARTICLE

Massive Fish Kill in Port of Stockton

Dan Bacher11-07-2008, 08:19 AM

<http://www.calsport.org/11-06-08.htm>

Massive Fishkill in Stockton Port attributed to lack of dissolved oxygen

November 6, 2008 -- On Tuesday, one of CSPA's readers, Mitch Yturri, reported to CSPA that a massive fish kill had occurred in the City of Stockton's port and turning basin. Several news media people were notified because of his efforts, one of these, KCRA, Channel 3, Sacramento.

KCRA followed up with a story on the Thursday night 6:30 edition of the news where they reported that the suspected culprit in the die off was a lack of dissolved oxygen in the port area. The only fish affected were millions of Threadfin Shad. No other fish were seen in the rotting mass of carcasses when film crews arrived on Thursday.

KCRA interviewed City of Stockton personnel who reported a chronic problem with dissolved oxygen levels in that portion of the port. They suspect that the recent rains increased turbidity in the already oxygen poor water, causing the die off. DFG is investigating the die-off but has given no reason for the fish deaths as of this time.

The area is equipped with underwater aerators to prevent the problem in the hot summer months when water temperatures rise and oxygen levels fall. The system was turned on after the fish kill was discovered but too late to avert a minor disaster.

Response posted

dave_in_el_dorado11-07-2008, 10:20 AM

not surprising, the entire port has been a massive nitrate plume for decades stemming from all the fertilizers handled there. w/ that much fertility, the phytoplankton blooms must be huge, and when cold weather or rain suddenly hit, the bloom dies off and consumes all the O2. in my experience w/ fish kills on small ponds, the majority of large fish sink, if the O2 crash was big enough to kill the little shad, i'm sure all the larger fish were hit as well.

Response posted

fish_food11-08-2008, 04:34 PM

not surprising, the entire port has been a massive nitrate plume for decades stemming from all the fertilizers handled there.

The algal blooms at the Port of Stockton/McLeod Lake are so bad in the summer that the water becomes a neon-ish pea green soup. *In addition to the nitrates you mentioned there also all the dioxins, PCBs, etc from the various industrial plants in the area (a creosoting plant, Dura Flame, etc). *There are signs in the there warning people not to eat the fish--in something like four languages.

Also:

Runoff to Blame For Shad Die-off, Bay-Delta Office Claims

By Peter Ottesen
Record Staff Writer
November 05, 2008 6:00 AM

A die-off of thousands of threadfin shad has occurred on the Stockton Deep Water Channel and appears to be centered near the Morelli Park boat launch, where construction to restore the downtown waterfront is underway.

Dead shad have been reported floating on the water and being deposited on the shoreline that parallels Fremont Street, causing a stench that can be smelled for blocks away.

I've never seen as many dead fish. There must be millions of them," said Ron Halvorson, a member of the Stockton Rod & Gun Club on nearby Monte Diablo Boulevard. "What is happening?"

Calls to the state Department of Fish and Game were referred to the Bay-Delta regional office in Yountville, where executive assistant Kathy Geary fielded questions.

"I understand the shad die-off is kind of a normal thing when the runoff from the first rain of the season flushes debris and oil into the stream," she said. "Threadfin shad use the top of the water column, so they are the species most affected when the polluted runoff occurs each year."

The Link To This Article Is As Follows:

<http://www.fishsniffer.com/archive/index.php/t-34112.html>

CSPA Announces Intent to Sue City of Stockton over Clean Water Act Violations

by Dan Bacher
Tuesday Jul 1st, 2008 5:15 PM

The following is a press release from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) regarding a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) to sue the City of Stockton for numerous violations of the federal Clean Water Act. The action concerns illegal spills from the sanitary collection system and violations of effluent limits for discharges into the San Joaquin River and Delta.

Interestingly, in an unrelated action, the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta, a group of Kern County water agencies, also issued a press release and NOI today of its intent to Sue the City of

Stockton for illegal stormwater discharges. Both actions indicate an increasing focus on eliminating the massive quantities of pollution introduced into the California Delta. Agencies have attributed pollution to be one of the three major factors in the precipitous decline of Delta fish species, although most experts believe the massive exports of water to be the single most serious problem, according to Bill Jennings, executive director of CSPA.

I commend the CSPA for launching this lawsuit against a big polluter like the City of Stockton. At a time when our Central Valley salmon and delta smelt, longfin smelt, juvenile striped bass and threadfin shad populations are in a state of collapse, I'm glad that somebody is speaking up for the fish and the environment!

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

“An Advocate for Fisheries, Habitat and Water Quality”

<http://www.calsport.org>

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

For information:

Bill Jennings, CSPA Executive Director, 209-464-5067, 209-938-9053 (cell)

Daniel Cooper, Lawyers for Clean Water, 415-440-6520x204, 415-819-3626 (cell)

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance to Sue City of Stockton for Sewage Spills and Illegal Discharges

Stockton, CA - The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) today gave formal notice, pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), of its intent to sue the City of Stockton for illegal sewage spills, overflows and discharges to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The CWA requires that citizens enforcing the Act must provide a discharger 60 days notice prior to filing the lawsuit. The CSPA letter puts Stockton on notice that its municipal sanitary sewer collection and treatment system has illegally allowed egregious quantities of raw sewage to overflow into city streets and the storm water collection system and that the wastewater treatment facility has routinely violated water quality limits in direct discharges to the San Joaquin River and Delta.

“Stockton’s wastewater control system is a public health and environmental hazard,” said CSPA Executive Director Bill Jennings. “The City’s failure to provide adequate facilities and acceptable levels of maintenance for wastewater control indicates an outrageous and egregious disregard for the health of Stockton’s residents and poses a clear threat to the integrity and survival of the Delta’s fish and wildlife resources. The spills and effluent violations evidence incredibly poor environmental management.”

Several years ago, Stockton privatized its wastewater collection and treatment system by transferring the system to OCI/Thames. Citizens vigorously opposed the effort and subsequent litigation voided the deal and the city recent resumed control.

Since June of 2003, Stockton’s 900 miles of sanitary sewers have experienced almost

1,500 overflows/spills of raw sewage. For example, in 2005, there were 335 spills or 37.2 per 100 miles of pipe. In 2006, there were 371 spills or 41.2 per 100/miles. In 2008, there were already 95 spills by 7 April. A well-run collection system experiences 0 to 3 spills per 100 miles per year and California's median spill rate is about 4 spills per 100 miles.

Sewage spills and overflows are serious health and environmental hazards. Because local business and industry discharge into Stockton sewage system, sewage can contain numerous dangerous chemical solvents, heavy metals like lead and mercury and wastes that can impair immune and reproductive systems of Delta fish and wildlife.

Pathogens in untreated sewage can cause a multitude of illnesses in humans. Stockton residents may be exposed to these pathogens when swimming, waterskiing, wading, fishing or boating in local waterways and the Delta, as well as when sewage spills into homes, streets, parks, schools and businesses.

Under a permit issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Stockton's wastewater treatment plant is allowed to discharge up to 55 million gallon per day of treated sewage into the San Joaquin River. The Permit imposes specific limitations on the effluent before it can be discharged to the river. It also imposes specific monitoring requirements. Information available to CSPA reveals that Stockton has violated its effluent limitations 604 times and violated monitoring requirements on 279 occasions.

Waterways in and around Stockton and the Delta are identified as "impaired" under the CWA and as "Toxic Hot Spots" pursuant to California's Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program. They are among the most polluted waters in the state. Numerous fish species that reside in the Delta or use the Delta as a migratory corridor are protected under state and federal endangered species acts. Pollution has been identified as one of the three principle causes of the present catastrophic crash of pelagic species in the Delta and declining salmonid populations in the Central Valley.

CSPA will seek injunctive and declaratory relief, to the extent provide by law, as well as civil penalties. The CWA provides for civil penalties of up to \$27,000 for each violation occurring from 4 November 1999 to 15 March 2004 and up to \$32,500 for each violation occurring since 15 March 2004.

Daniel Cooper and Drevet Hunt of Lawyers for Clean Water, Inc., and Michael Lozeau and Doug Chermak of Lozeau/Drury LLP. are representing CSPA in this matter. CSPA is a public benefit conservation and research organization established in 1983 for the purpose of conserving, restoring, and enhancing the state's water quality and fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats. CSPA has actively promoted the protection of water quality and fisheries throughout California before state and federal agencies,

the State Legislature and Congress and regularly participates in administrative and judicial proceedings.

The Link To This Article Is As Follows:

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/07/01/18512579.php>

2nd NEWS ARTICLE:

SFGate
San Francisco Chronicle
February 25 1998

Debris Sewage Contaminate Bay

Jane Kay and Eve Mitchell, Jane Kay is The Examiners environmental writer and Eve Mitchell is an Examiner correspondent Eric Brazil of the Examiner staff contributed to this report

(02-25) 04:00 PDT SAN FRANCISCO -- Recent storms have pumped so much bacteria-riddled sewage, as well as mud and other debris, into San Francisco Bay that the head of a local athletic club says

"there are some days when it's like you're swimming through vegetable soup."

Or as one surfer put it: "It's gnarly."

San Francisco health officials concerned about the sewage contamination have posted signs on local beaches warning that people could get sick from entering Bay and ocean waters. Some surfers have complained of a variety of illnesses attributed to the polluted ocean water.

The sewage contamination does not mean that fish caught in the Bay or nearby ocean cannot be eaten, said Lorraine Anderson, senior environmental health inspector for The City's Health Department. "Fish have their scales, which can be cleaned off after they're caught, and then you cook them," she said. "Our health concern is with chemicals that are ingested by fish, not surface contamination."

Monday's vicious El Nino storm, which is being blamed for nine deaths, caused beachfront sanitation problems in Southern California as well.

Heavy rains overburdened Los Angeles County's sewer system, prompting millions of gallons of untreated sewage to spill into Santa Monica Bay. The spill forced the closure of beaches from Palos Verdes to Malibu because of unsafe bacteria levels.

The storm was the latest in a series of rigorous weather systems that have punished California since late January, causing more than \$475million in damage statewide and prompting 36 of 58 counties to declare states of emergency.

The National Weather Service on Wednesday reported a cold front moving into California's northwest coast, but it produced only light rain. The dampness was expected to dissipate by midday, and dry weather is forecast through the weekend.

Some people who swim, surf and fish in the Bay say warning signs aren't enough, and The City should do a better job of stopping overflow sewage during the rainy season.

"The kinds of folk that use the Bay don't stop because of the elements," said Meg Reilly, president of the Dolphin Club, the outdoor swimming association at Aquatic Park.

"But during wet weather, the city sewer system is clearly contributing to bacterial problems in the water."

Candlestick Park, Aquatic Park, Crissy Field and Baker, China and Ocean beaches are all posted with warning signs, after health officials found high levels of bacteria, said Ken Sato, principal environmental health inspector at the San Francisco Public Health Department.

"You can get gastrointestinal symptoms and infected cuts. You can actually get hepatitis if you consume enough of the organisms," Sato said.

People can obtain updated information about the polluted beaches by calling (415) 242-2214. Two groups, Communities for a Better Environment and San Francisco Bay Advocates for Environmental Rights, scheduled a press conference Wednesday at the Public Utilities Commission. The groups are handing over 10,000 postcards signed by concerned residents demanding upgrades at the older North Point and Hunters Point sewage treatment plants.

The City has made some improvements: It now collects storm water as well as sewage and industrial waste for treatment. But when it rains, the transport lines to the plants still overflow at discharge points around the Bay, according to the health department.

The overflows occur at separate points along Ocean Beach - near Vicente Street and at Lincoln Boulevard - as well as at Mile Rock between Seal Rock and China Beach. Other discharge points are near North Point in the Marina and at Islais Creek in Hunters Point, where partially treated sewage slops near stores and houses.

"The Mile Rock discharge is in close proximity to three of San Francisco's primary winter surfing spots," said Pete Reich, of the Surfers Environmental Alliance.

Instead of white-crested waves, the surfers are seeing brown foam. "It's gnarly," Reich said. Surfers complain of diarrhea, infected cuts and sinus infections, he said.

In Pacifica, meanwhile, pounding waves and destructive tides continued to gnaw away at a cliff supporting eight oceanfront homes.

Some residents of the 500 block of Esplanade Drive returned Tuesday to collect more of their belongings after city building officials determined it was safe to enter the homes in the early afternoon during low tide.

The homes have been red-tagged, meaning their occupants are under a mandatory evacuation order.

"We want to make every effort to let them salvage everything and anything they can," said police Capt. Mike Blagrove.

With a series of high tides due to arrive over the next couple of days, officials are bracing for the potential of even more cliff erosion, Blagrove said.

Seven of the 12 homes on Esplanade were deemed uninhabitable Sunday. An eighth residence was red-tagged Tuesday morning.

Health officials post warnings of bacteria in water at beach<

This article appeared on page A - of the Examiner

The Link To This Article Is As Follows:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/e/a/1998/02/25/NEWS3319.dtl>

3rd NEWS ARTICLE: Picture of fisherman fishing next to sewage discharge/Spill location....WOW.....is this were Brown Trout come from?????

SFGate
San Francisco Chronicle
January 31, 2010
By Kevin Fagan

Aging Pipes Force Sewage Into San Francisco Bay



A man fishes along the shore in front of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District plant at Point Isabel
In Richmond. Paul Chinn/ The Chronicle

Storm sewage spills

Locations of major spills and discharges of untreated and partially treated sewage into the bay during the storms of Jan. 17 to Jan. 23.

- 1** EBMUD* 77 million gallons (partially treated)
- 2** Richmond 300,000 gallons
- 3** San Bruno 16,575 gallons
- 4** San Mateo 138,000 gallons
- 5** Sausalito 40,000 gallons
- 6** Millbrae 800 gallons
- 7** Rodeo 24,750 gallons
- 8** EBMUD** 66.5 million gallons (partially treated)

*Oakport Wet Weather Facility, Oakland

**Point Isabel Wet Weather Facility, Richmond



Source: *San Francisco Baykeeper*

John Blanchard / *The Chronicle*

Joan Petrosch and her friends were tossing fishing lines into the bay last week, hoping for bites from the striped bass and stingrays they usually catch.

The setting? On the Richmond-area shoreline - in front of one of the main outflow points for partially treated sewage in the Bay Area.

"There's no way we would eat anything we catch," Petrosh said, watching one of the lines buck with what looked like a bite. "Just think of the bay - it's too contaminated. We just catch 'em for fun and throw 'em right back."

Little did she know how contaminated the water really was.

During the storms that howled through the Bay Area a couple of weeks back, a total of 630,000 gallons of raw sewage spewed into the bay at 47 spots, according to environmental watchdog group San Francisco Baykeeper.

That was small fry, however, compared with the 170 million gallons of under-treated - meaning only partially processed - sewage discharged from three East Bay Municipal Utility District "wet weather" overflow plants on the eastern side of the bay, Baykeeper reported. The plants are there to process overflows during storms, but in big drenchers like this month's the water is sullied more than usual by sewer overflows.

One of those "wet weather" plants is at Point Isabel, right by where Petrosh was fishing.

Nasty stuff

The raw sewage was the worst - pure product from toilets, kitchen sinks and dirty creeks, rolling into the waves after mixing into runoff water through cracked sewer lines, overflowing manhole covers or similar breaking points.

The under-treated sewage had at least been mixed with rainstorm water, screened of solids and run through a chlorine cleansing process before being released.

But given that even the best of the sewage still had chemicals such as pesticides and heavy metals such as mercury - the kinds of things that give people stomach aches and rashes, and that kill or sicken fish and birds - none of the gunk was harmless.

It's a problem that's been building for a while: Many of the Bay Area's sewer pipes and processing plants are so outdated that spills are a given every time big storms overwhelm the draining systems. And with an El Niño winter having set in, the sight of brown, scuzzy water wending its way toward the fishing and swimming spots will be common.

Spills happen "all over the bay," Baykeeper policy analyst Sara Aminzadeh said on the organization's boat last week. "It's a lot of work for everyone just keeping track of them, let alone stopping them."

"It's a serious health and environmental issue for Bay Area ecosystems and communities," Aminzadeh said.

A bit at a time

In the Bay Area alone, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has issued dozens of cleanup orders over the past two years, and the state Regional Water Quality Control Board has

levied millions of dollars in fines. But the necessary renovation and repair jobs are so numerous that taking them on all at once would be impractical, officials said.

The federal and state agencies, often assisted by Baykeeper, file actions to force communities and water agencies to upgrade - but the goal is really to spur action toward fixing things a bit at a time.

A case in point: Last year, the EPA filed a federal lawsuit with the state water board to get six cities and the Richmond-area Stege Sanitary District to assess their systems and figure out how to fix them. Baykeeper joined that action Thursday, and the aim now is to get everyone moving on a strategy for upgrades.

The cities involved are Albany, Oakland, Alameda, Emeryville, Berkeley and Piedmont.

San Francisco has one of the most advanced storm and sewer water processing systems in the state - a series of underground vats ringing the city. But even with that, enough contaminants drained out during the recent downpours that five beaches had to be closed.

Upgrades tough to do

"There is a multibillion-dollar backlog in upgrades that need to be done, and not enough money to do it, so we really try to work with the districts and cities all over the state as much as we can," said William Rukeyser, spokesman for the state water board. "We would much rather cities fix their systems than spend money on fines."

EBMUD's managers say they can't afford big upgrades immediately. So in the meantime, they are working with the communities in the EPA lawsuit and elsewhere to assess what it would take to overhaul the area's sewer systems, many of them decades old. EBMUD serves 1.2 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

They are also working on an ordinance that would require residents to have their sewer pipes inspected, and repaired if necessary, every time the home is sold.

The idea, said EBMUD spokesman Charles Hardy, is to stanch the leaking sewage water coming into processing plants, so the plants won't be overburdened.

"This has to be a collaborative effort between everyone involved - us, the homeowners and the communities," Hardy said. "We can't do it by ourselves."

Don't spill

How to prevent sewage spills:

-- Minimize water use during heavy rains - wait to run the dishwasher or clothes washer.

-- Don't let fats, oil and grease block your sewage lines. Instead of pouring them down the drain, put them in a can and throw them in the garbage.

-- Have your home sewer line inspected and repaired or replaced if it has leaks.

-- Make sure your sewer cleanout cap is secure and tight, preventing rainwater from getting into your sewer pipes and overfilling them.

Source: San Francisco Baykeeper

E-mail Kevin Fagan at kfagan@sfchronicle.com.

The Link To This Article Is As Follows:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/01/31/BABS1BPLR1.DTL>

Human waste may be killing delta fish

By Matt Weiser
The Sacramento Bee

SACRAMENTO — After years of searching high and low for a culprit in the collapse of delta fish populations, scientists are learning the problem may lie right under their noses. The likely fish killer is ammonia, a common byproduct of human urine and feces. Sacramento's regional sewage treatment plant is the largest

single source of ammonia in the delta. It discharges treated waste water from nearly 1.4 million people into the Sacramento River near Freeport — without removing ammonia.

Two recent studies by Richard Dugdale, an oceanographer at San Francisco State University, show that ammonia disrupts the food chain in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The discovery, if it holds up to further scientific review, reveals

how just one factor can tilt the delta's complex ecological balance. It also illustrates how fixing the delta will be a costly task for many California residents who mistakenly assume their lives are not connected to the estuary.

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District estimates it needs as much as \$1 billion to remove ammonia from the metro area's waste water. Monthly sewer bills would have

to triple throughout the region.

"We're not going out on the edge to say this is the whole answer," said Dugdale, co-author of the studies along with others at the university's Romberg Tiburon marine lab. "But we think it's part of the reason for the decline in [ecological] productivity."

Ammonia in the river does not make fish unsafe to eat, nor does it pose a threat to recreation. It does, however, seem to

interrupt a natural food production line that would otherwise yield abundant blooms of tiny aquatic animals to feed salmon, smelt and bass, Dugdale said.

Those species have been in steady decline.

The ammonia threat was dramatically illustrated last May when dozens of chinook salmon showed up dead in the San Joaquin River near Stockton's

See DELTA, Page B4

Delta: Ammonia-laced water harms food chain

STOCKTONS - SEWER WATER

Continued from Page B3

sewage outfall. Anke Mueller-Solger, an environmental scientist at the state Department of Water Resources, said the fish may have been killed by high levels of ammonia in the waste water.

Sacramento's effluent problem is slightly different. Rather than high concentrations of ammonia, the threat is the enormous volume of ammonia-laced waste water. The regional sewer agency treats human waste from Sacramento, West Sacramento, Folsom, Carmichael, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove and other unincorporated communities.

The plant near Freeport each day releases about 146 million gallons of treated waste water into the Sacramento River. That's enough to fill about 225 Olympic-size swimming pools daily.

Despite this volume, Mueller-Solger said, the Sacramento River is traditionally considered the delta's lifeblood, because it provides the vast majority of fresh water entering the estuary.

"But there is this big urban area called Sacramento and it's been growing like gangbusters," she said. "Obviously, sewage is produced proportionally to the number of people, so the water's perhaps not quite as nice and clean as we thought."

The ammonia load in Sacramento's waste water has more than doubled since 1985 due to rapid urbanization, and is now more than 125,000 gallons per month. That's 10 times more than the Stockton sewage plant.

To handle more growth, the regional sewer agency plans a major expansion that would allow total discharge volume to grow by 30%. The plan includes no ammonia controls.

"This is a cost of growth that is too often externalized onto a degraded environment," said Bill Jennings, executive director of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and longtime delta water-quality watchdog.

Jennings called it "simply reprehensible" that the sewer agency hasn't already improved its systems to remove ammonia and other contaminants.

Sewage officials counter that they have a responsibility to ratepayers. They estimate upgrading the waste water treatment plant to filter out ammonia would cost \$740 million. To remove excessive nitrates produced as a byproduct of that treatment would raise the cost to \$1 billion.

District engineers estimate these steps together would boost sewage rates in the region from \$19.75 per month to \$62.17.

"If it's causing a problem, I think we have to recommend going to that," said Mary Snyder, district engineer. "But on the other hand, we don't want to leap into anything precipitously simply because of the effect on ratepayers. The average person is going to object to paying that much."

**IN MAY 2007
STOCKTON'S CITY
SEWER WATER
MAY HAVE KILLED
DUMPING INTO
THE RIVER
MAY HAVE KILLED
THE FISH!**

Do you think Sacramento's every day dumping 146 million gallons of contaminated sewer water into the Sacramento River just might be a contributing factor to contaminating the Sacramento Bay Delta area water? What about the combined effects of all the other cities along the Sacramento River who are doing the same thing?